

From: **Kathy O'Keefe**

Date: Tue, Nov 17, 2015 at 4:07 PM

Subject: Middle School Honor Roll

To: Nicole Odekirk <nicoleodekirk@gmail.com>, markjones@busybusy.org, Lynn Colletti <lynncolletti@gmail.com>

Dear Stow Representatives to the Nashoba Regional School Committee,

I am concerned about the inclusion of "Habits of Mind" in the middle school honor roll criteria.

The Habits of Mind are: conduct, preparation, participation, and homework.

The elementary school SBR parent guides describe habits as::

"the habits of learning [that] are predictors of current and future performance. We have separated these from the performance ratings so it is clear to you what your child knows, understands and is able to do. We think it gives a clear picture of who your child is as a learner and makes a clear distinction between product and process."

The middle school SBR parent guides describe habits as:

"We have identified learning habits that students exhibit so that teachers, students and parents can work collaboratively on these to address inconsistencies and concerns or show students how to use their strengths to improve academic performance."

I believe the habits of mind should not be considered for honor roll criteria. I believe habits of the mind should be tracked and appropriate interventions should be put in place for students who are weak in habits. Honor Roll is an academic recognition. As such, we should recognize what the student knows, understands, and is able to do (the letter grade) vs. the process (the habit). If a middle school student is getting "A"s and "B"s but is disorganized, forgetful, distracted or too chatty, do we discount their academic achievements? Are they unworthy of honor roll because their executive functioning skills are lagging behind their intelligence? Is withholding academic recognition "working collaboratively to address inconsistencies"?

In addition, if a student receives "Seldom" for Conduct, that student would be ineligible for honor roll. This is imposing a academic consequence on a behavior offense, which violation of Policy JKF which states "Behavioral interventions shall be used only for behavioral offenses, and academic consequences shall be used only for academic offenses."

If the School Committee is able to influence the Honor Roll criteria, I urge you to have the Habits of Mind removed.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss.

Regards,

Kathy O'Keefe
Stow